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# Soviet Journal Assailed for Novel on Hardships Under

Stalin

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MOSCOW, March 6—Pravda today attacked Novy Mir, liberal Soviet journal, for publishing a novel on hardships under Stalin and other works with "ideological mistakes."

This was the second attack in the last 48 hours on Novy Mir, a monthly journal of the writers union, with a circulation of 110,000, which publishes both fiction and nonfiction for the intellectual elite.

Yesterday, Literaturnaya Gazeta, the weekly of the writers union, devoted almost an entire page to rebuking Novy Mir for printing a grim autobiographical novel that described hardship in the Urals from the

late nineteen-twenties through World War II.

Pravda, which is the Communist party newspaper, joined Literaturnaya Gazeta in attacking the novel, and broadened the criticism to include Novy Mir's failure so far to conform to a more stringent ideological line invoked by the party last April.

## Responsibility Charged

Pravda said the Literaturnaya Gazeta article "correctly draws attention to the fact that the editors of Novy Mir, having decided to print such a work, share with the author the moral responsibility for the mistakes and weaknesses of the novel."

"This criticism is all the more well-founded," Pravda said, "because the editors of Novy

Mir in the past have been subject to criticism more than once for publishing a number of works that contained ideological mistakes and that denigrate our way of life."

The current dispute centers on the novel, "Youth in Zheleznodolsk," by Nikolai Bronov, published in the last two issues of the journal.

The author tells about difficulties experienced by people living in the Urals as he was growing up.

Zheleznodolsk seems to be Magnitogorsk, where an iron and steel plant was built between 1929 and 1933 at the start of Stalin's first five-year plan.

The narrator's father was a Communist party activist whose job it was to force well-to-do

peasants, known as Kulaks, off their land and then auction off their property.

The author tells of the plight of the kulaks with evident sympathy and his description of living conditions in those times is bleak.

Official Soviet accounts of that period tend to minimize the problems and stress the accomplishments of the industrialization.

A recent article in Kommunist, a party journal, criticized works that dwelt on the shortcomings of the first five-year plan.

The attack on Novy Mir began with a letter in Literaturnaya Gazeta signed by six former workers at Magnitogorsk. They said they were "deeply outraged by the novel."

"We do not want to say that in building the first five-year plan or in wartime there was not great difficulty . . . But is it really necessary to write only about the shortcomings? How did this giant [steel plant] arise—the pride and joy of the country?"

Literaturnaya Gazeta then ran a lengthy criticism in which it said an author was entitled to write about bitter things only if he stressed "the main thing—the definite achievement of the Soviet people."